

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending. By this amendment, claim 8 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

In paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action, claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0043568 (McHale) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0064730 (Chen). Applicant traverses.

Among the limitations of independent claim 1 that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record are the requirements for “a subscriber information administration server that manages terminations for a plurality of circuits, comprising a circuit administration table for retaining a many-versus-one correspondence between the plurality of circuits and a [single] subscriber . . . wherein the server updates said circuit administration table to reflect a resource allocation of each circuit.”

McHale is directed to allocating XDSL modems to subscriber lines, “to train a modem or transceiver unit to communicate data over the associated twisted pair line using XDSL communication techniques.” Mchale, Abstract. As illustrated in Fig. 1, Mchale discloses that each subscriber 12 has its own subscriber line twisted pair 16. The Office Action identifies three tables: a subscriber table, activity table and line profile table, illustrated in Mchale Fig. 3, but does not indicate which table represents the claimed circuit administration table. Notably, Mchale lacks disclosure that shows a many-to-one correspondence between circuits and subscribers. Mchale is directed to a POTS network, where each subscriber has a single, hardwired circuit (twisted pair 16), thus, a many-to-one relationship is not contemplated, nor disclosed. The Office Action cites paragraphs [0077] and [0079]-[0081], but Applicant cannot find any teachings there where multiple circuits are identified and information is maintained that ties multiple circuits to a single subscriber. Notably, profile table 124, illustrated in Mchale Fig. 19, indicates that a single subscriber line is mapped to a single subscriber, which is a one-to-one relationship that is consistent with Mchale Fig. 1. Thus, Mchale fails to disclose the many-to-one relationship between circuits and a single subscriber required by independent claims 1 and 8. Chen fails to cure this deficiency of Mchale.

Chen is directed to proportionally reducing bandwidth in a mobile network when required, based on different classes of service. In Figs. 12A and B, Chen illustrates reallocation of bandwidth between three user terminals (A, B and C) for a *single* subscriber. Notably, no communications circuits are disclosed in Figs. 12A and B, as the tables do not have rows comprising subscriber identifiers and circuit identifiers. *Cf.*, Applicant's Fig. 3, columns 1 and 4. In Fig. 1, Chen illustrates a radio node controller circuit that, in signal multiplexing circuit block 111, multiplexes several signals for transmission to mobile handset(s) 20. Chen fails to disclose a subscriber information administration server/resource administration method that retains "a many-versus-one correspondence between [a] plurality of circuits and a subscriber," as required by the independent claims. Further, as illustrated in Figs. 12A and B, Chen merely discloses allocation of bandwidth to individual user terminals, not allocation of circuits to subscribers who provide communications services to the user terminals, as required by independent claims 1 and 8. Therefore, the combination of McHale and Chen fails to disclose the claimed limitations identified above. In the absence of any disclosure or suggestion of these features of the invention, independent claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 2-7 depend from independent claim 1, and incorporate by reference all of the limitations found in the independent claims from which they depend, and are also allowable for the same reasons discussed above. In addition, dependent claims 2-7 include further limitations which, in combination with the limitations incorporated by reference, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record, and are therefore further allowable.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McHale in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0034797 (Becker Hof) and Chen. Applicant traverses.

Among the limitations of independent claim 8 that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record are the requirements for "retaining information of a one-versus-many correspondence between a single subscriber and circuits in the plurality of circuits" and "allocating each circuit in the plurality of circuits based upon said circuit administration table."

As discussed above in connection with independent claim 1, McHale and Chen fail to disclose the required many-to-one relationship between allocated circuits and single subscribers.

Becker Hof ¶ [0064] is cited on page 6 of the Office Action as teaching that subscribers enter contracts based on the circuits they use. Applicants respectfully submits that Becker Hof merely identifies that a “subscriber may actually have two contracts: 1) a subscriber to wholesaler contract (subscriber can instruct wholesaler to switch to another service on demand, using the web portal); and 2) a subscriber to provider contract (the subscriber has an end-to-end relations with the provider of choice; for this relationship, a PPP username and password may be maintained and [known] between the two entities).” Becker Hof, ¶ [0064]. Nevertheless, no citation to Becker Hof is provided by the Office Action that would cure the deficiency of McHale, and therefore a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made. Therefore, the combination of cited references fails to disclose the claimed limitations identified above. In the absence of any disclosure or suggestion of these features of the invention, independent claim 8 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 9-13 depend from independent claim 1, and incorporate by reference all of the limitations found in the independent claims from which they depend, and are also allowable for the same reasons discussed above. In addition, dependent claims 9-13 include further limitations which, in combination with the limitations incorporated by reference, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record, and are therefore further allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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